

RIVER CURRENTS

SECOND COAST GUARD DISTRICT — MARCH 1978

ICE PLAGUES WESTERN RIVERS



An aerial view of stalled barge traffic on the Western Rivers. Scenes such as these were common on the Western Rivers due to heavy ice buildup.

Ice conditions on the Western Rivers have presented many problems to the Coast Guard this winter.

Flooding, pollution, and hazardous river travel have kept Second District Coast Guard personnel busy since late December. These problems have also affected the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the river industry, and civilian populations.

River sections most critically affected were the Upper Mississippi and the Ohio River.

Ice conditions on the rivers caused the Government Industry River Advisory Committee (GIRAC — ST. LOUIS, MO.) to issue warnings to commercial towboat operators on the Upper Mississippi. The warnings included river section closings, travel restrictions, and general advice to mariners. (GIRAC is made up of representatives of the Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, and 12 towboat firms).

Markland Dam

One of the most severe problem areas this winter has been Markland Dam, located approximately 50 miles west of Cincinnati. A severe ice buildup of hard packed and layered



Damaged and loose barges that caused many problems around the Markland Dam.

ice caused these problems. Drifting or sunken barges created trouble around the dam. Cincinnati Coast Guard Marine Safety personnel responded and were on scene to evaluate the situation and give assistance.

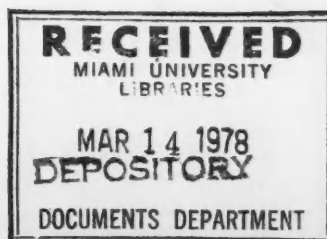
A HH-52A helicopter, dispatched from C.G. Air Station Detroit, provided support for aerial surveillance, logistics, and possible SAR in the Markland Dam area.

Airlift "Cincinnati"

A Coast Guard HC-130 aircraft at the request of the Red Cross, was dispatched from Elizabeth City Air Station to Cincinnati carrying food and supplies. On January 29 and 30, 60,000 pounds of supplies were delivered to victims of the severe blizzard that paralyzed Ohio. The food was furnished by the Department of Agriculture.

Flood Relief Alert

Second District Coast Guard Office personnel were put on alert for flood relief duty on the weekend of January 28. Huntington, West Va., Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh areas were in danger of lowland flooding. Even though no personnel were called out for duty, they remained on alert throughout the weekend.



RIVER CURRENTS: Revised

RIVER CURRENTS has undergone a dramatic change in format to better serve the men and women of the Second Coast Guard District. RIVER CURRENTS will be published monthly. This new schedule is designed to provide more information in a more timely manner. It is intended that every active duty military and every civilian person receive a copy.

DIAL-A-BILLET

The Commandant (G-PE) has begun announcing billet vacancy information by a recorded message. Information provided will reflect those CONUS billets that are expected to become vacant in four months and those OUTCONUS billets to become vacant in five months. This information will be updated bi-weekly. Billets for a particular rank/rating will be provided in accordance with the following schedule. Only E-6 thru E-9 and certain petty officer billets will be provided.

Monday — BM (E-7 thru E-9)
Tuesday — Aviation, Petty Officer and Diver Billets
Wednesday — DC, EM, HM, DT, and PA
Thursday — ET, TT, and ETN
Friday — BM (E-6 only)
(The above schedule is for the first and third weeks each month.)
Monday — MK (E-7 thru E-9)
Tuesday — MK (E-6 only)
Wednesday — SS and SK
Thursday — RM, RD, GM, ST, and FT
Friday — YN, QM, and MST

(The above schedule is for the second and fourth weeks each month.)

(The FTS number for the dial-a-billet information system is 426-9787.)

DISTRICT COMMANDER
RADM Wayne E. Caldwell
Chief of Staff
CAPT William L. Webster
Public Affairs Officer
LTJG Gabriel O. Kinney
Editor
PA2 James F. Mogensen
Staff
PAC Donald G. Wood
PA2 Reginald V. Reese
SA Dona R. Frank

1977 DI Results

RECRUITING OFFICE

LOUISVILLE	GOOD
PITTSBURGH	EXCELLENT
ST. LOUIS	OUTSTANDING

RESERVE UNIT

CINCINNATI	EXCELLENT
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ANFAC

GREENVILLE (PATOKA)	EXCELLENT
SALLISAW (MUSKINGUM)	EXCELLENT
VICKSBURG (KICKAPOO)	EXCELLENT
PARIS (CIMARRON)	EXCELLENT

MARINE SAFETY OFFICE

ST. PAUL	EXCELLENT
HUNTINGTON	EXCELLENT
NASHVILLE	EXCELLENT
ST. LOUIS	OUTSTANDING
LOUISVILLE	EXCELLENT
CINCINNATI	EXCELLENT
PADUCAH	EXCELLENT
PITTSBURGH	OUTSTANDING

BOATING SAFETY DETACHMENT

MARIETTA	EXCELLENT
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LORAN STATION

DANA	OUTSTANDING
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REGIONAL DIRECTOR AUXILIARY

ST. PAUL	EXCELLENT
ST. LOUIS	OUTSTANDING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ABOVE
UNITS. THE DISTRICT INSPECTOR
ALSO ADVISED THE INSPECTION
STAFF WILL INSPECT FORTY ONE
UNITS IN CALENDAR YEAR 1978.

An unofficial publication, RIVER CURRENTS is published under the direction of the Public Affairs Office.

News, feature stories and photographs are solicited from all Coast Guard personnel. Material will be published on a space available, news, significance basis and by-lines may be given, if requested.

TAX TIME:

Taxpayers who complained last year about tax forms and tables will be glad to learn that Federal taxes will be simpler to figure this year, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Probably the biggest change for 1977 involves the new tax tables. Last year, you had to make several computations before going to the tax tables to find your tax. This year, those extra calculations will be eliminated for 96 percent of all taxpayers.

The new zero bracket amount (\$2,200 for singles and \$3,200 for married filing jointly), personal exemptions, and the general tax credit have all been built right into the tax tables. This means that after entering your adjusted gross income on your tax form, you can go straight to the tables to find your tax.

Persons who itemize deductions will be required to make one computation before going to the tax tables. You will have to subtract from your income the amount by which your itemized deductions exceed the zero bracket amount. Persons whose income exceeds the tax table amounts and those with more exemptions than the number listed will be among those also required to make additional calculations.

One thing to keep in mind with the new zero bracket amount is that it's a flat amount as opposed to the old percentage method. This change will result in lower taxes for most people.

Form 1040A will be a single sheet printed only on one side, instead of the old-half-sheet printed on both sides. The type will be larger wherever possible, making the form easier to read.

Because several computations have been eliminated, tax forms will be simpler to prepare this year. A minimum number of entries will be required on the short Form 1040A before you go to the tax tables. *And if the taxpayer requests, the IRS will compute his or her tax.* The tax instructions contain details.



Make Goods' Claims Good

Recently a number of Coast Guard personnel who have been transferred to the District have submitted household good claims under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act for loss of or damage to antiques and other items of high value.

Coast Guard claims regulations prohibit payment for "articles of extraordinary value such as precious metals, paintings and antiques" except under certain circumstances. It is up to you, the owner of the furniture, to show that a particular item is, in fact, an antique before payment will be allowed. If the item is lost in the move, this showing is necessarily difficult. Therefore, if you possess valuable antiques, you would be well advised to obtain an appraisal of their value from a reputable dealer before you turn them over to the movers. This alone will not conclusively establish the value of your pieces, nor that they are "antiques", but it will help if your furniture is lost or damaged.

The safest course of action for someone with a considerable investment in antique furniture is to purchase insurance to fully cover the value of the shipment prior to the move.

Similarly, claims regulations prohibit payment for "small items of substantial value such as jewelry, cameras, electronic equipment, and binoculars." These items should not be shipped unless they also are insured. Rather, they should be carried with you when you move.

Questions concerning claims for household goods may be addressed to YN2 ISTRE in the legal office. The time to make sure that you understand the claims procedures and regulations is now — not after your prize antique rocker has been reduced to kindling.

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SUPPORT C.G. WELFARE!

... to promote social welfare; alleviate distress, misfortune, and adversity; lessen neighborhood tensions; protect human and civil rights; improve morale, loyalty, patriotism, esprit de corps of Coast Guard personnel and their dependents ...

*from: Coast Guard Welfare
Preamble*



RM2 Rick P. Graves is being reenlisted in a unique way. RM2 Graves was sworn in for three years by LT. H.J. Langholtz, Commander Group Ohio River.

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DOT NEWS

During the first nine months of enforcing the new 200-mile fisheries conservation zone, U.S. Coast Guard cutters boarded 1,914 vessels, cited 419 for violations, issued 221 civil penalties, and seized three foreign ships and part of the cargo of a fourth. Fines imposed upon the three seized vessels totaled \$589,900.

In search and rescue operations during 1977, the Coast Guard, which is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, responded to more than 71,000 calls for help, and provided rescue assistance estimated to have saved several thousand lives and more than \$2.8 billion worth of property.

Enforcing laws concerning drug trafficking, Coast Guard cutters seized 30 vessels and contraband worth more than \$298 million. This included more than one million pounds of marijuana.

Coast Guard merchant marine safety personnel boarded more than 2,600 foreign flag tankers entering U.S. ports. Fifty-four per cent were found deficient in cargo handling and cargo ventilation systems. The Coast Guard detained nine foreign tankers until deficiencies were corrected and denied entry into a U.S. port for one other.

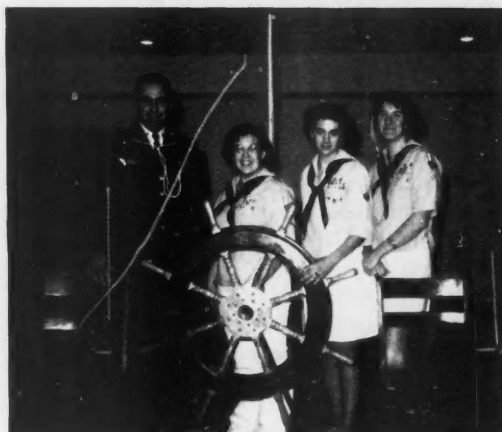
Also, more than 7,500 oil spills were reported to the Coast Guard operated National Response Center in Washington, D.C.

Some Blue Champus Claim Forms Now White

The customary "blue" CHAMPUS claim form — DA Form 1863-1 — used for submitting claims for hospital care under the Basic Program of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) was recently printed in large quantity on white paper.

CHAMPUS officials have asked that beneficiaries and institutions be advised of the color change to lessen confusion resulting from it.

The blue 1863-1 should be used when available and the white 1863-1 may be used when the blue form is no longer available.



BMCM John De Luca, on behalf of the St. Louis Chapter, CPOA, presented a Bos'n Pipe to the Senior Girl Scout Troop M/S Pinafore of the 1st Congregational Church, Webster Groves, MO. BMCM De Luca is shown with members of the troop.

**Need help?
Call us.
Want to help?
Call us.**



**Red Cross is
counting on you.**

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1978--765128/1

